Q&A: Retired Doctors

I have retired from the NHS but continue to practise in a voluntary or independent capacity. Do I need to revalidate?

Retired doctors may continue to work in many different capacities (such as with pharmaceutical companies, providing advice, working with universities, in out of hours work). Whether you need to revalidate depends upon whether you require a licence to practise to undertake any or all of the work that you do. You should speak to the organisation that you are working or volunteering for to ascertain whether that organisation requires you to hold a licence to practise. If you continue to treat patients you will require a licence.

If you are retired from clinical practice, it may be that you would wish to relinquish your licence to practise but maintain your registration with the GMC. This means that you do not have to revalidate, and it will show that you remain in good standing with the GMC. This will depend on whether you undertake any activity post-retirement which requires a licence to practise (e.g. if you work directly with patients). If you do require a licence then you will have to revalidate in the same way as all doctors, linking to a designated body and Responsible Officer, participating in annual appraisal and collating a portfolio of supporting information in relation to the work that you do.

Please see the GMC’s information on licensing for further information.